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Stephen Dick

Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne

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Unemployment and Volunteering: Is there a correlation?

Stephen Dick

Dr. Nodir Adilov

Business/ Economics

Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne

With the recent recession, many people have become unemployed or underemployed. Currently, I am working part time and attending school to further my education and potential. At the same time, I feel it is important to give back to the community and others. What are some ways to gain experience in my field of study, which is business and economics? What have others done to improve their skills and fill any added time with a reduction in labor? For example, is there an increase in people volunteering, in order to obtain additional experience? Or is there a reduction in volunteering with people spending more time searching for employment? Also, what impact does this have on the current economy? There is also, the potential for no connection between the unemployment rate and volunteering rate. These are some of the questions that will be addressed in this paper.